

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of the TELSCOMBE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held on Wednesday 8th March 2017 in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: J Harris, A Loraine, R Maskell, G Maskell *Mayor*, D Neave, B Page, A Smith, J Wilkins *Deputy Mayor*

ALSO PRESENT

5 members of the public, Nancy Astley, Town Clerk; Stella Newman, Deputy Town Clerk/RFO

219. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors D Brindley, W Botting, A Mendoza, B Page and D Wright.

220. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL 2016

The minutes were proposed by Cllr R Maskell, seconded by Cllr D Neave, approved by the Councillors present and signed as a true record by the Mayor, Cllr G Maskell.

221. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:-

a) Amenities & Civic Centre – Cllr J Wilkins

Cllr Wilkins advised that the Committee had approved the start for a number of major projects, mainly the refurbishment of the play spaces. She thanked the Telscombe Residents' Association who had sponsored one new piece of equipment. A tree survey had been carried out in Chatsworth Park and The Copse with the recommended works having been carried out in Chatsworth Park and The Copse works were due to start shortly. Budget savings had been made due to a new photocopier lease being agreed and a new contract for dog bin emptying

Many events had taken place over the year including the Queen's 90th birthday car park party, monthly bingo evenings, Tyefest and fireworks and the children's Halloween party to name but a few. Cllr Wilkins thanked the Town Clerk and Cllr Botting for the Christmas coffee morning held at the Civic Centre. Forthcoming events include the Summer Fayre in Chatsworth Park in July, fireworks on the Tye in September and Macmillan fundraising in September.

b) Planning & Highways – Cllr D Neave

Cllr Neave started by welcoming those present and said it had been a pleasure to chair the Planning & Highways Committee. He advised that Committee meetings take place every 3 weeks and the Committee is purely advisory and provide statutory comments to Lewes District Council who make the final decision. During the year the Committee had considered 29 planning applications of which to date 16 had been granted, 13 rejected and one tree application considered. The number of applications considered were slightly down on last year.

Cllr Neave explained that the Committee oversee the maintenance of 11 Council owned bus shelters, grass verge cutting and regular Strengthening Local Relationships meetings are held

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with Peacehaven Town Council and East Sussex County Council Highways department to discuss issues highways issues.

He finally advised that nearly £6,000 CIL money had been received and it has been agreed that this money will go towards the playground refurbishments.

c) **Policy & Resources – Cllr A Smith (in the absence of the Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman)**

Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised that the Committee had been working on the Business Plan, one element of which was that the community flock be maintained at 100 ewes. He said that the figures may look misleading as the Council's accounts do not allow for profit and loss, but the sheep were making a healthy return.

The Committee also oversees the Council's finances. The Council Tax Support grant is reducing annually and may even go completely by 2019.

Regular audits are carried out by third parties which have all had positive results and the Council's current assets stand at £1,743,999.

Grants totalling £3,000 had been given to local organisations/groups and also £3,325 to the Citizens Advice Bureau who attend the Civic Centre on the last Tuesday of the month for a couple of hours. They provide a very worthwhile service for the community. A contribution had also been given to Wave Leisure to help fund summer holiday activities for local children, but the take up could be better. A contribution to the CTLA 4 towns community bus had also been made.

Cllr Smith finished by advising that the Council no longer held the lease for the Telscombe Village Club.

222. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR, CLLR G MASKELL

The Mayor, Cllr G Maskell said it had been a pleasure for her to represent the Council locally and beyond as Mayor. She advised it had been daunting to start with but grew into something she had really enjoyed.

Her first big event found her greeting the new High Sheriff at our party for Her Majesty the Queen's birthday. She had met the Lord Lieutenant in his parlour earlier so was aware of the protocol and now had to put in into practice. All seemed to go well at the event and she had formed a friendship with the High Sheriff and his wife.

Following on she had attended several functions involving other Town Mayor's at fetes and formal events which had included lots of marching. December had also involved lots of carol singing. From the fundraising events held at the Civic Centre, the Mayor advised she had supported many local volunteer groups, having given out £2,940 to date. The Council's quiz evenings and some months the bingo evenings and raised substantial amounts for Macmillan, Children in Need and shortly Red Nose Day. The Mayor advised that last weekend her mum had turned 100 and she had chosen to donate to the Dame Vera Lynn Charity for children with Cerebral Palsy of 5 years and under rather than receive gifts. The Mayor had included the February bingo takings and £652 had been raised for this charity.

Finally she thanked those Councillors, the Deputy Clerk and her husband for helping out with her functions over the year and thanked our new admin assistant for running her busy diary.

223. TO RECEIVE REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK – NANCY ASTLEY

The Town Clerk, Nancy Astley advised it had been another busy year with continued improvement. There had also been some staff changes and we had said goodbye to the

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caretaker Gerry and admin assistant Jan, but welcomed Karen and Graham as evening caretaker, with Mick altering to the day caretaker.

With regard to the Council’s financial status, Nancy was pleased to report that it is relatively healthy at the current time, with no cut in services. There had been a slight increase in takings for bookings at the Civic Centre and thanked the caretakers and admin assistant for sorting out the logistics.

She went on to advise that the Council had been a consultee on various items and that the local residents associations had worked tirelessly for the area. She ended by advising that the Council is working to ensure services are maintained and the Council are to tender for new grass cutting and grounds maintenance contracts.

224. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

There were no written questions.

225. TO RECEIVE FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL ELECTORS

Chris Bowman, secretary of the Telscombe Residents’ Association, thanked the Council, Councillors and staff for their continued help. She advised there is a good synergy, even if they do differ sometimes. She said the Council are doing a good job and thanked the Town Clerk.

There was a query if the Coastal Management meetings would be taking place as promised and Cllr A Smith advised they will start at the end of March.

The meeting was then closed by the Mayor at 8.02 pm.

Signed
MAYOR