

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of the TELSCOMBE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held on Wednesday 18th April 2018 in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: T Armour, D Brindley *Deputy Mayor*, J Harris, G Maskell, R Maskell, B Page, I Sharkey, A Smith, J Wilkins *Mayor*

ALSO PRESENT

11 members of the public,
Stella Newman, Town Clerk/RFO

226. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors A Loraine, A Mendoza, C Robinson & D Wright.

227. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2017

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

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

a) Amenities & Civic Centre – Cllr D Brindley

Cllr Brindley advised that playground refurbishment works were due to start on 1st May; a Public Space Protection Order is due to be implemented on the Tye; tree works have been completed at Chatsworth Park and The Copse; the Telscombe Cliffs School Forest School have been visiting Chatsworth Park and the Council has provided them with 10 litter pickers; although no official opening of the memory garden is planned as it has been there for 2 years already, the maintenance is now included in the new grounds maintenance contract and it is due to be weeded and the grass cut every other week during the summer months.

Regarding the Civic Centre, several works have been undertaken including replacement of the fire escapes; a partition wall is due to be put in to separate a room upstairs into two to provide storage and pointing work on the south and west sides of the building has been done. Regarding the heating system, the pipework was flushed through and a new radiator fitted by Cllrs Brindley and R Maskell, the work taking 2 days and undertaken free of charge and the Council has entered into a 24/7 maintenance contract with British Gas. Car park control measures have been agreed following an issue with a member of the public falling in the car park whilst not visiting the Civic Centre resulting in an ongoing insurance claim. A manually operated barrier will help to alleviate any further claims that directly affect the insurance premium and cost to the Council and taxpayers alike.

The Council again held several successful events including the summer fayre in Chatsworth Park, fireworks on the Tye, kids Halloween party, Macmillan coffee morning and Legion d'honneur presentation. The ongoing bingo evenings are still well attended and the Mayor's latest Spring into Spring event raised over £400 for her charities. The Telscombe School children's farm visits are taking place this week.

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



b) Planning & Highways – Cllr J Harris

Cllr Harris advised that he had been Vice Chair of the Planning & Highways Committee, but following the resignation of the Chair of the Committee, he was appointed as Chair in January of this year. It was therefore a first for him having to give this update on the activities of the Planning & Highways Committee.

He advised that the Committee meets once every 3 weeks and considers Planning Applications forwarded by Lewes District Council. The District Council are the planning authority and make the decision as to whether the application is approved or refused and our Committee is purely advisory. To date 42 applications had been considered, 35 of which were approved by Lewes, 1 refused and 6 are awaiting a decision. 2 were South Downs National Park applications and one tree application. There was also an East Sussex County Council application regarding demolition of 2 redundant steel frame structures adjoining the main building at the Portobello pumping station.

Cllr Harris advised that the Committee is also responsible for bus shelters, grass verge cutting and some street lighting owned by the Council and over the last year the Committee agreed refurbishment works on all bus shelters and installation of seats for those shelters which didn't have one.

The Committee had also agreed a new grass verge cutting contract for one year and approved a contract for ESCC to maintain the street lights owned by Telscombe Council.

Finally the Committee was consulted by ESCC regarding a new public footpath 'Telscombe 17' between Cliff Gardens and Buckhurst Road which has just been approved.

Cllr Harris ended by saying he hoped he had given an insight into the Committee's work and thanked the Town Clerk, Stella Newman and also all the Councillors that are members of the Committee for their help and input in making the decisions they had.

c) Policy & Resources – Cllr B Page, Vice Chairman (in the absence of the Committee Chairman)

Cllr Page advised that the Council are maintaining a community flock of 100 ewes to provide additional income. Unfortunately a lot of lambs and ewes were lost in the last year due to dog attacks. The Committee is therefore working with Lewes District Council to introduce a Public Space Protection Order regarding sheep worrying on the Tye which, once granted, could be enforced by law. The exact wording has yet to be agreed.

He advised that there are several sub-committees, Grants, Audit and Employment. Grants had been awarded to several local organisations, as well as Citizens Advice and the CTLA 4 towns community bus which provided an invaluable door-to-door service. The Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) oversees all the Council's finances and ensures both internal and external audits requirements are met. The Employment sub-committee has recently agreed a staff restructuring and a new part-time Amenities Officer and Admin Assistant have been employed.

Cllr Page ended by advising that the Council's assets total £1,745,000 and that the Council is proud to say that for the 2018/19 financial year the Council's part of the Council tax has had a .33p decrease to £89.27 for a band D property.

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



229. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR, CLLR J WILKINS

The Mayor, Cllr J Wilkins, advised it had been her pleasure and privilege to represent Telscombe Town and its residents as Mayor at nearly 150 functions during her term of office. Some had been truly inspiring. The young sea cadets based in Newhaven receiving the Indefatigable Cup for being the most improved unit in the whole country and the work of Seaford's young Mayor, Tom Exley, as he had raised money to provide a disabled swing. She advised that if these young people are a sign of things to come, then we have nothing to fear for our community.

The Mayor advised that some events have showcased local people who give their time, money and skills so generously. The Rotarians, Deans Senior Tea Club, Kempton House, scout and beaver groups and our amazing local churches all provide residents with much needed clubs, sanctuaries and activities. Some events had raised cash and awareness of local and national charities and some had been good fun. The Mayor thanked everyone who had worked so hard and all who had supported the Council's summer fayre to which so many local businesses so generously donated raffle prizes and free publicity and her own Spring into Spring entertainment evening which did so much to add to her charity fund.

One event she had been sad to attend was the recent funeral of Helen Livings, a remarkable lady who worked so hard for so many different groups in our community and who was the wife of John Livings, one of our previous Mayor's.

Cllr Wilkins advised that at the end of her term of office in May she will be dividing the proceeds of her charity fund and anything remaining from her allowance between her 5 charities; the Seaford Down's Syndrome group; Raystede; Sussex Horse Rescue Trust in Uckfield; Cats Welfare Sussex and the Wildlife Rescue Ambulance Service.

The Mayor ended by saying it had been an exhausting year, an unforgettable experience and somewhat poignant for her as it came exactly 40 years after her father, Norman Wilkins, was Mayor of Telscombe himself.

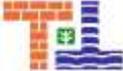
230. TO RECEIVE REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK – STELLA NEWMAN

The Town Clerk, Stella Newman, advised that the last 12 months had proven to be quite an eventful year for the Council, beginning with the handover from the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Gwen Maskell, to the new Mayor, Cllr Joanna Wilkins. The end of 2017 saw several changes with Cllrs Dave Neave and Wayne Botting resigning and also the Town Clerk. Following the Councillor resignations, a by-election was held and Christine Robinson and Isobel Sharkey won the vacant seats and the Clerk welcomed them to the Council.

She explained that following on from the Town Clerk's departure, discussions had ensued between the Sussex Association of Local Councils, an HR company and Councillors and she was appointed Acting Town Clerk and subsequently offered and has accepted the full time position. She explained that she was not new to the Council, having been employed for 14 years and she was pleased to have accepted the new role and will continue to serve the Council and its residents to the best of her ability. She will also continue in her role as Finance Officer.

She informed residents that being understaffed since the change in role, with an ever increasing workload, Councillors had agreed to a staff re-structure and she welcomed Diana Joel as afternoon receptionist and Bianca Buss as part-time Amenities Officer. The Clerk ended by taking the opportunity of thanking the existing staff, Karen the senior admin assistant, Mick the daytime caretaker and Graham and Tom the evening/weekend caretakers for all their hard work throughout the year and continued support during the recent difficult times and hoped their working relationships would continue to flourish.

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



231. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

Two questions had been emailed in by a resident. One was regarding the memory garden asking when it would be officially opened and the other was can the Council assure it will be maintained. The resident was informed, as per the Amenities & Civic Centre Committee Chairman’s report, that no official opening is planned as the garden has been in place for 2 years already and that its maintenance has been included in the new grounds maintenance contract.

Regarding the Civic Centre car park, the resident asked if the Committee could consider allowing 2 or 3 bays to be used by residents for general parking.

There were no other written questions.

232. TO RECEIVE FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL ELECTORS

A resident of East Saltdean asked if the twittens in East Saltdean will be maintained and the Town Clerk replied that they are part of the new contract. The same resident asked what the Council had done about the A259. Cllr Smith replied that Telscombe Council has little to do with the roads and no budget to do it. He explained he is a member of the Economic Partnership and has raised the profile of problems on the A259, but ESCC are not recognising the problem. He advised that there are pinchpoints at Rottingdean and Newhaven: the Neighbourhood Plan feeds into the Local Plan and housing needs to be provided and it is difficult to find the fine balance

The meeting was then closed by the Mayor at 8.27 pm.

Signed
MAYOR