

# TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of the TELSCOMBE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30 pm.

**PRESENT** Councillors: C Cheta, C Clarkson, C Gallagher, J Harris, L Mills (via Zoom), L O'Connor, C Robinson *Deputy Mayor* & A Selby

**ALSO PRESENT** Stella Newman, Town Clerk/RFO  
2 members of the public

## 248. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith due to family commitments and Cllrs Page and Judd due to illness. Councillor Sharkey had been granted leave of absence until May 2022. Cllr Brindley was absent but had not sent apologies.

## 249. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr O'Connor who was present at the last meeting, seconded by Cllr Clarkson, approved by the Councillors present and signed as a true record by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr C Robinson.

## 250. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMEN OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:-**

### a) **Amenities & Civic Centre – Cllr Gallagher, Chair**

Cllr Gallagher advised that the Committee is responsible for the public parks and playgrounds in East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs, which are the Robert Kingan playground, Chatsworth Park, which includes two playgrounds, and The Copse. She explained that climate change is affecting the parks, the trees, bushes, play surfaces and play equipment and being so close to the sea means that salt and high winds have a strong effect on the way we maintain and plan development in the Parks.

She advised that health and Safety is a high priority for the playgrounds and they have a weekly inspection plus a more detailed annual inspection. If equipment presents any danger the Council will repair or remove it and whenever possible will consult before making changes.

She went on to say that in the past 12 months, surveys have been undertaken on the trees, biodiversity, habitats and accessibility. Policies have been reviewed and new ones introduced about litter bins, boundaries of the parks and complaint handling and that all policies can be found on the Council's website which will help the Officers to manage more efficiently and consistently.

She said that volunteer work in the Parks greatly help with the maintenance as well as being social and satisfying.

She then advised that another Committee responsibility is the Civic Centre building and grounds. The building on the corner of the South Coast Road and Central Avenue is over 20 years old and was unique with a versatile design. Today's standards for building sustainability



## 250. To Receive Reports From The Chairmen Of The Following Committees (Contd)

### c) Amenities & Civic Centre – Cllr Gallagher, Chair (Contd)

and health and safety have meant that continuous upgrades were necessary. The solar panels were aging and the gas boilers were no longer efficient. The Council is budgeting and taking advice to improve the heating and insulation of the Civic Centre, a move away from fossil fuel and energy storage potential was being investigated. She went on to say that with Covid restrictions lifting, the exterior of the building was due to be redecorated.

She finished by saying that meetings of the Committee take place every other month and the public are always welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website.

### b) Planning & Highways – Cllr C Robinson, Vice-Chair

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Brindley, the Vice-Chair, Cllr Robinson, read his report. It explained that the committee meets every three weeks and although the Town Council is consulted by Lewes District Council (LDC), the Planning Authority, on planning applications, we are only statutory consultees in the planning process. This meant that we only have the right to be informed of planning applications and the final decision is made by the Planning Authority and not the Town Council, but LDC do take our comments into consideration before making the final decision on a planning application.

The report advised that planning applications for 2021/22 totalled 76. We supported 61, of which 51 have been approved by LDC, and objected to 15 of which 6 have been approved by LDC. There were still 13 applications awaiting a decision from LDC.

The report went on to say that the Planning and Highways Committee are also responsible for Telscombe Town Council owned bus shelters, arranging the grass verge cutting contract, some street lighting in and around our parks and are involved in the Peacehaven and Telscombe Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Committee discusses many varied items each time they meet, including clear access to pavements for pedestrians, potholes and kerbstones, wildflower planting and trees.

### c) Policy & Resources - Cllr Clarkson, Chair

Cllr Clarkson began by thanking the Council staff for their hard work and commitment over the last 12 months. He advised that the Council and especially the P&R committee were working hard to make improvements in all areas and that was not possible without the support and incredible work of the Council staff.

He explained that one of the primary responsibilities of the P&R committee concerns the operation of the Tye. The upkeep and sustainability of the Tye as a public space for residents and visitors was a top priority as well as developing strategies for improving biodiversity. Substantial work had been made towards a management plan which will help improve the visibility of the Council's long term aims for the Tye as well as help with structuring operational tasks.



## **250. To Receive Reports from the Chairmen of the Following Committees (Contd)**

### **b) Policy & Resources - Cllr Clarkson, Chair (contd)**

Cllr Clarkson advised that the Council now had a mature complaints procedure which was implemented last year. The status and outcome of complaints is reported to the P&R Committee which helps the Council understand residents' concerns and identify significant problem issues. The information is publicly available and provides a level of transparency residents deserve. He advised the Council staff should be commended for how well they process complaints and further information on complaints and handling will be included in the Annual Report.

He finished by saying that he had enjoyed his time as Chair of the Committee and hoped the work that has been started can form the foundation of future improvements.

## **251. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR, CLLR D JUDD**

In the absence of the Mayor, Cllr Robinson, the Deputy Mayor, read his report. Cllr Judd advised that it had been a privilege to serve as Mayor from May 2021 and he was looking forward to serving a second term. As life gets back to normal, he hopes to meet more of the community.

His report advised that in 2021 he was still able to attend many events which encompassed flag raising and charring numerous Council meetings in person or via zoom. In December a Community Awards Evening was held at the Civic Centre to recognise nominated individuals who had gone the extra mile over the last 18 months by serving our local communities.

His report went on to thank those who attended the War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday. He encouraged everyone of all ages to take time to visit the War Memorial in Peacehaven, read the inscriptions and pause to remember the fallen of war, these brave individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice. They will never be forgotten and we will remember them.

He advised that in the year ahead he is aspiring to undertake a lot more corporate fundraising with all proceeds raised going to the Mayoral Charities. The year will start with him donating his Mayoral and Councillor allowances to the Charity fund and that his primary charity is the CTLA: This service provides such a vital role and its continuing funding and support remains pivotal for the local community. He thanked everyone who is linked to this very worthy cause.

Finally on a lighter note, he asked all to come and join Councillors for the monthly bingo at the Civic Centre (last Friday of the month). It's a fun evening for all age groups with cash prizes.

His report finished by wishing all good health and prosperity for the year ahead.

## **252. TO RECEIVE REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK – STELLA NEWMAN**

The Town Clerk, Stella Newman, said that as in previous years, the reports from the Committee Chairs had covered the activities of the Council over the last year so there was not much for her to add.



## **252. To Receive Report by the Town Clerk – Stella Newman (Contd)**

However, she thanked the current Councillors for their support and assistance and advised that they will soon be entering their final year of this term of office, with elections due in May next year. The Councillors had implemented several plans and policies to improve the Council's way of working and to develop the local area, especially Chatsworth Park and the Council owned outside spaces.

She advised that Cllr David Judd has been a wonderful Mayor but it was unfortunate that his fundraising events had been inhibited due to Covid. Nevertheless, he had still raised nearly £3,000 during his term of office and she advised that she looked forward to working with him again as Mayor next year.

She went on to say that the Civic Centre had opened again for limited hires from August last year following the Covid lockdown and is now finally back to operating as near normal as possible. The staff had proved resilient and done their utmost to ensure all services had been maintained throughout the pandemic. She said they are a great team and was thankful to them for their flexibility and hard work. She finished by saying that she would like to welcome a new staff member, Angela, who had actually been with the Council for almost a year now. She is the Admin and Finance Assistant and manages reception at the Civic Centre in the mornings and also works 3 afternoons a week.

Cllr Robinson also thanked all staff for their hard work over the last year.

## **253. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP, CLLR D JUDD**

In the absence of the Steering Group Chair, Cllr Judd, Cllr Gallagher read his report. It advised that the Vision for the NDP was for Peacehaven and Telscombe towns to be sustainable with clean air and an environment providing a good quality of life for all inhabitants and visitors.

It explained that the plan area was defined in 2013 but work did not start until 2018 when a grant was obtained, and consultants appointed. Since then, over 40 reports had been written to evidence the final plan document and numerous consultations.

The report went on to say that the Neighbourhood Development Plan was now drafted, and a public consultation know as Regulation 14 was carried out, ending on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022. All the responses will be used to modify the plan and then it will be sent to Lewes District Council who will consult further. A government appointee will examine the Plan before it goes again to the public for final Referendum.

The report explained that the Plan contained a number of Policies to guide future development of the two towns, the polices aim to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the area and create 20 minute towns where services are within 20 minutes' walk, cycle or bus ride away. The Policy Areas are:

- Open Spaces
- Housing
- Transport
- Employment
- Community Facilities

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**253. To Receive Report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, Cllr D Judd (contd)**

The report went on to explain that the ambition to create a new Town Centre based in and around The Meridian Centre remained. The site has been sold by Co-op Food stores to Morrison's, who are aware of the aims and ambitions of the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Design Guide. Further information and reports can be found on the website [www. peacehaven-and-telscombe-neighbourhood-plan-steering-group.co.uk](http://www.peacehaven-and-telscombe-neighbourhood-plan-steering-group.co.uk)

The report ended by advising that one of the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan is that the Council has the right to 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy paid by developers, and that there were many more benefits.

**254. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS**

None.

The Deputy Mayor advised that she would now move on to verbal questions from local electors.

**255. TO RECEIVE FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL ELECTORS**

Mr Pat Bowman from the Telscombe Residents' Association advised he had several points to say but had no questions. He thanked Councillors and staff for surviving another difficult year and Cllr Clarkson and team for their work in Chatsworth Park and advised that the public had noticed and were joining in volunteering. Regarding Telscombe Tye, he advised that he had lived in Telscombe for more than 40 years and did not think that many people knew about the history of the Tye. He also said that he felt someone should contact the South Downs National Park Authority to see if they could provide metal signs on the A259, similar to ones in other areas, advising that 'you are entering the South Downs National Park.' He ended by wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

Cllr Robinson thanked the Telscombe Residents' Association for all that they do and with there being no further questions, closed the meeting at 7.55 pm.

Signed .....  
MAYOR