

TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a meeting of the **Telscombe Annual Town Meeting** held on Wednesday 17th April 2024 in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT Councillors: C Gallagher, D McGuckian, L O'Connor *Mayor*, B Page, J Perrotta, C Robinson & N Watts

ALSO PRESENT Stella Newman, Town Clerk/RFO
1 member of the public

264. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Clarkson sent apologies due to a work commitment, Cllrs Lawrie & Judd due to a prior engagement and Cllr Sharkey as she had a meeting at Lewes District Council. These reasons for absence were accepted.

265. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 2023

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

266. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE CHAIR PERSON OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:-

a) Amenities & Civic Centre (ACC) – Cllr Robinson, Chair

Cllr Robinson's report started by thanking her fellow Councillors on the Committee and the Council staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment over the last year. It highlighted the responsibilities of the Committee, being the maintenance, running and ongoing improvement of the town's amenities such as parks, playgrounds and the Civic Centre, as well as arranging community events.

The report explained that the Chatsworth Park volunteer group is co-ordinated by the ACC Committee and had grown from strength to strength with, at times, 60 residents and children assisting. It also gave details of a recent project in Chatsworth Park, a mini forest following the Miyawaki method which was thanks to a grant from the Tree Council and Network Rail Community Tree Planting fund. In years to come it will be a special place where residents can walk amongst the trees and bird song. Cllr Robinson expressed her gratitude to Cllr Clarkson whose vision, passion and enthusiasm is inspirational.

Regarding the Civic Centre, the report advised that the Havens Community Hub CIC will continue to hire rooms at the Civic Centre for the next year. The team offer support services for local business and support local charities and community groups.

b) Planning & Highways (P&H) – Cllr I Sharkey, Chair

Cllr Sharkey's report advised that the Committee meets every 3 weeks and members of the public are welcome to attend. It explained that although we are consulted on applications in the Council's area, we are only advisory and the ultimate decisions are made by Lewes District Council (LDC). The report advised that the committee had been consulted on 43 applications to date, most of which were on a small scale of 28 the Committee had support 28 (25 of which were approved by LDC), objected to 8 (of which 4 were approved by LDC) and had provided comments on 7.

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266. To Receive Reports from the Chairmen of the Following Committees (Contd)

Cllr Sharkey's report highlighted that the Committee are also responsible for Telscombe Town Council owned bus shelters and street lights, arranging the grass verge cutting contract and are involved with the emerging Peacehaven & Telscombe Neighbourhood Development plan. Other considerations at meetings include pavements, potholes, kerbstones and wildflower grass verge planting, with issues and concerns passed on to East Sussex County Council.

c) Policy & Resources (P&R) - Cllr Clarkson, Chair

Cllr Clarkson's report thanked Council staff for their hard work and commitment over the last year and advised that it was important to note the sheer volume of work they do with the staff numbers they have.

The report highlighted the responsibilities of the Committee, being the Council Policies and the management of Telscombe Tye. It noted that over the last year the Council had adopted Policies that support and protect the Council staff; outline steps staff can take to protect themselves from negative behaviour which underscore the Councillors support for staff to have a safe workplace and had made changes for bereavement leave.

Regarding Telscombe Tye, the report advised that the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement had ended which allowed the grassland to grow which had led to flourishes of wildflowers last spring and summer. Over the last year lots of energy and ideas had been put in to help make improvements where possible, including funding bids. The Committee is also working on ways to work with other stakeholders for the Tye to make further improvements around its management.

267. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR, CLLR L O'CONNOR

The Mayor's report advised that it was almost a year since he was fortunate enough to have been elected as Mayor of Telscombe and that in that time, it had been an honour to represent the town at over 40 civic and community events and he had enjoyed representing the town. The Mayor thanked his wife Carole for all her support as she had accompanied him at many of the events. It had been his aim to talk to people about all the great things that we had done and do across East Saltdean and Telscombe but it was also important to try to raise the profile of the town.

His report thanked all of the community groups, the Council's staff and of course Stan Newman. He particularly thanked the Admin Assistant, Diana Joel for all the support that she had given him as Mayor over the past year.

The report thanked the Havens Hub who had worked so hard in the year to help those in need for the benefit of the whole community and both the Telscombe and Saltdean Residents Associations for their strong support of the local community.

His report also gave huge thanks to all of the Councillors who gave their free time so generously to attend all the meetings and activities, with especial thanks to the Committee Chairs, Cllrs Ciarron Clarkson (P&R), Christine Robinson (ACC), Isobel Sharkey (P&H) and David Judd (Emp-Sub).

The Mayor's report advised that as a result of his charity fundraising, he had already distributed over £3,500 to local projects which aim to support and help improve children's mental health.



267. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR, CLLR L O'CONNOR

Locally the Mayors Charity had supported young carers at Peacehaven Community School to go on a trip to Brighton Marina Bowling Alley for an afternoon's activity as a reward for their efforts in looking after others. Mat Verniol, Assistant Head at PCS has said that *"The trip was fantastic. Students were extremely pleased and very grateful for such an event to be organised for them. They really appreciated having some time together, having fun, without the pressure they can sometimes face. It was also a good timing doing it over lunch time as it gave them a break from school, on a Friday, before the weekend. We had invited a member of the Young Carers' support network as she often works with our students and it was nice for them to meet in a different environment. Thank you."*

Funding had also been provided for additional counselling sessions for young children at Telscombe Cliffs Academy who had faced particular issues recently and that the funding would help in working with parents to support their children including a workshop type activity. It was hoped that this type of support may also be offered to Saltdean Primary school.

Another exciting project was to support Saltdean Swim and Surf in the coming season with a project to provide mental health therapy sessions from May to August, tailored for young people. They aim to work directly with the local schools including PCS, Longhill, Saltdean and Telscombe to intervene early, treat young people with respect, and focus on a learning activity that they can relate to; surfing and being in the sea. The project will enable those young people in our community with a mental health issue to initially be involved in a Surf Therapy.

The report ended by thanking all those who had supported the Mayor's Charity to achieve so much over the year.

268. TO RECEIVE REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK & RFO – STELLA NEWMAN

The Town Clerk's report thanked the Committee Chairs for explaining the activities of the Council over the last year and to the Councillors, both new and existing, for their support and assistance over the last year. Despite still having 2 Councillor vacancies since the May elections, the Council had managed admirably.

Her report advised that the Council had to maintain and fund considerable land and property assets, as well as provide local accessible services, with a small tax base to draw upon. It explained that the Council had been pro-active in ensuring the best possible service in maintaining and developing the local area and due to the prudent financial management and re-tendering of several contracts, the Town Council's precept for the 2023/24 financial year had been kept as low as possible with the Council Tax increasing for a Band D property by £6.25 (6%) to £110.90.

Her report ended by saying that the staff play an essential part in ensuring all services are maintained to a high level, often under a pressurised environment, and thanked them for their continued commitment.

269. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) STEERING GROUP, CLLR C GALLAGHER

Cllr Gallagher's report advised that in 2024, the journey which started in 2016 will come to an end with a Referendum across the communities from East Saltdean, Telscombe and Peacehaven and the NDP will be 'made.' The report advised that the benefit of the plan in the main is that the

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269. To Receive Report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group, Cllr C Gallagher (Contd)

planning policies and Design Guide setting out how the Towns should be developed will be a legal document to be followed by Lewes District Council Planners. The other benefit being that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds paid by developers to the Town Council will rise from 15% to 25%. The plan had taken a long time to develop as there was a lot of legislation governing how the plan was produced and the planning policies it contained. There had also been consultation with many stakeholders and most vital were the views of the residents. Residents had advised that the important considerations for the environment and land were walking routes, bridleways, parks, green corridors, cycling networks and the clifftops and that those priorities had been highlighted in the final plans.

The report ended by advising that the Plan is now in the hands of Lewes District Council for the final lap and a Government examiner is working on the final approval, with a Referendum expected to take place later this summer.

270. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

There were no written questions from electors.

271. TO RECEIVE VERBAL QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL ELECTORS

There were no verbal questions from electors.

As there were no questions, the Mayor closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.

Signed
Mayor