

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2017 IN THE TOWN HALL COMPLEX

PRESENT:

A total of 31 electors signed the attendance register

WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Cllr M Beal (Chairman of the Town Council) took the Chair and welcomed the members of the public and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Town Councillors C Dean and N Jones sent his apologies.

TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING HELD ON 20th APRIL 2016

The Chairman explained that the minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 20th April 2016 had been available in the library and on the Town Council website for the last 12 months and would be taken as read unless anyone wished otherwise.

Mrs C Purnell proposed, seconded by Mr M Mockford, that the minutes be confirmed and signed as a true record.

RESOLVED

MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA

There were none

TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2016/17

I would like to start this report by thanking the staff ably led by our Clerk Becky White. All the staff work incredibly hard to keep the show on the road. Their roles are diverse and demanding and it is obvious to anyone who deals with STC that they are a team and deal with both councillors and members of the public in a variety of situations with incredible patience. For that I for one am very grateful. Following the fire at The Academy, a situation which could have tested the community to its limits, we came together to support our school and the Council was very pleased to play its part, hosting the new Year 7 while the temporary village was constructed. We still miss them (a bit) and again take this opportunity to pay tribute to the incredible work of The Academy team through such a difficult period.

Since developing our Communications Strategy in 2015 the Council has tried to reach out to the community through different media and by forging better links with the groups that do so much in our town. We have pleased to see the strategy bearing fruit through the good levels of attendance at our Business Plan consultation, Neighbourhood Plan consultation and the events organised throughout the year – and indeed by seeing so many groups represented here tonight. The Festive Lantern parade with carols round the Community Christmas Tree was a new venture this year and it was great to have so many local people join us on the night and give such good feedback. Feedback from our residents is essential in ensuring STC are meeting people's needs. Your comments on the Business Plan meant that we were able to prioritise the key objectives and this was adopted in November 2016, giving the Council a clear set of guidelines until 2019. In response to local feedback regarding the town's economy we have developed an Economic Support Strategy which Sam Tate, our Town Co-Ordinator, will work on delivering with the support of your local councillors. In a world where transparency and clarity are paramount these are both documents that show we are open, accountable and most importantly, listening!

You will notice that we have had some staffing changes this year and welcome both Sarah U'dell and Sophie Wingate to the admin team. Sophie is our first Apprentice and the Council is very pleased to have made such an opportunity available to a local young person. The manager of the Selsey Centre has just retired and has been replaced by Michaela in the leading management role, ably supported by Rachel Snow and I am sure they will take the centre from strength to strength. New systems will/are being introduced including credit card payment which will bring us into the 21st century. The same system will be available for hirers of the halls at the town hall.

Selsey Works has had a change of leadership with Sue Osborne taking over the helm. The result has been a significant increase in the contact numbers with the public and a widening of the range of services on offer. SelseyWorks are working with the Asda store team to assist in the recruitment programme with a strong emphasis on recruiting from the local area so for anyone looking for local employment the opportunity will be there so keep an eye out for the adverts and if you know of anyone them please put them in the picture. I

realise that this is one of the most divisive issues in Selsey at the moment but it is here to stay so let us make the most of it and use the situation for the betterment of Selsey.

The ongoing saga of the Neighbourhood Plan. Following the inspectors report that was mentioned in last year's report we (with thanks in particular to Clive Alden and Carol Purnel) have modified the 1st section to concentrate on the land use policies with all the other parts, that we thought we important but the inspector was not so convinced on, in part 2. Consequently, we had to send the modified plan to all the consultees again and to present the modifications to the residents. The results of this consultation are being analysed but first impressions are that the responses are nearly all positive. Presentation to the inspector will follow the completion of the analysis and then, who knows, we may have a neighbourhood plan! Don't cheer yet though.

Last year I said that we presented the issues of our newsletter in Selsey Life. To ensure that we continue to use a publication which is delivered to your door the Official Rumour now appears in Local Life and we get regular messages out via our Facebook page and website. As I have said on many occasions in the past, unless you tell us what your issues are then the direction we follow may not be the one you think we ought to go. Having said that, democracy means that not every idea can be adopted so nobody can promise your particular idea will win the hearts and minds of the council but unless you tell us then I can promise that your idea won't gain the heat and minds of the councillors.

The A27 consultation has been and gone and the Secretary of State has withdrawn the funding. The situation now has meant the implementation of a joint initiative with all interested parties in a forum trying to find a solution that we can all sign up to. The initiative relies on all participants being of open mind and willing to examine every option and to come up with new ideas and possibilities that will be for the benefit of everyone. STC has reps on that forum with a view to work with the group and eventually get the Sec of State to reinstate the money and produce a workable solution.

You know where we are and how to contact us, so please help us to make Selsey the place we all want to live and enjoy. As I said earlier, its important to STC to work with and listen to our community so I hope you will take the opportunity to share your views following the Community Forum's presentation.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE SELSEY COMMUNITY FORUM

Mike Nicholls, Chairman of the Community Forum, gave a presentation on the work of the Forum. Mike opened by thanking the town and district councillors for the voluntary time they give to the town and saying that this work was appreciated. He then explained, that the Forum was created as a result of the Selsey Action Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan was drafted to deal with land and infrastructure needs but the Forum picked up on the needs of people and the Annual Town Meeting represented a useful opportunity to revisit that list of community needs. Mike explained that the following interactive session would be an opportunity to share ideas and feedback, start building a new list of community needs and plan how to help those become a reality. Selsey Community Forum is a collective partnership of groups and organisations and tries to embrace as many of the statutory and voluntary organisations as possible. Based in Penny Lane, the offices has become a gathering point where people can pick up a welcome pack, contribute to the community diary and learn about whats happening in Selsey. It is an information hub with 6000 visits a year. SCF aims to bring together Working Groups on key issues – the young, the old, funding, etc – to explore plans, projects, ideas and activities. These include, among others, the Selsey Greenway group – working on a commuter cycle route to Chichester, the Flood Action Group which deals with flooding and surface water drainage issues, the Christmas Day Lunch group, the Friendship Group and Selsey Community Watch. As an example of how the Forum works in partnership Mike noted the Movies for Memories lunch club – a joint enterprise between the Town Council, Selsey Cinema Club, Julie's Kitchen Diner, the Venture Club, Selsey Lions, Highhouse Insurance, the Methodist Church and Selsey Community Watch, all of whom work together to bring an audience of elderly residents to enjoy lunch and a film together in a warm, friendly setting every other week. Everyday, the Community Watch organised phone calls to over 20 elderly residents to combat loneliness and twice a month a Sunday afternoon tea was held in co-operation with the local churches. The Care Forum tries to draw together agencies which are addressing issues of adult care. All this illustrates how the Community Forum tries to identify local needs and bring people together to meet those needs. Forget Me Not Selsey was a new initiative to help Selsey recognise and meet the challenges of dementia, led by the Forum in partnership with WSCC, CDC; it was hoped that this would lead in turn to training opportunities for voluntary groups.

INTERACTION SESSION ON IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY NEEDS FROM A VOLUNTARY GROUP PERSPECTIVE

A session was held where attendees were encouraged to list suggestions for community needs. It was agreed that these would be collated by the Town Council admin team and circulated to those attending. Mike Nicholls advised that there would be a follow up meeting to review progress and report back – this would take place from 6-7pm on Wednesday 24th May 2017 at The Bridge and all were welcome.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM INTERACTIVE SESSION

A summary of the ideas put forward including more volunteers and better co-ordination between volunteer groups, safe meeting spaces and improved play facilities for the disabled, community repair shed, outreach services, street planters, a heritage centre, action on litter, a webpage for community groups services/support for the young people of the town. The main areas identified could be grouped as follows – Older People, Young People, Wildlife & History, Sport & Leisure, Disability Support, Health and Wellbeing Support. It was generally agreed that the Community Workshop, organised by Sam Tate, Town Co-Ordinator and hosted by Selsey Works, had been well received as it gave the local groups a chance to compare actions and resources. Sam agreed to set up a follow up meeting and would report back. Becky White, the Clerk to Selsey Town Council, agreed to review the list of suggestion and update it to show areas where the Council was already progressing the issue. This would then be discussed at the follow-up meeting of 24th May. It was agreed that the suggested list should then be prioritised and Becky explained how this would assist the Council when planning spending allocation in the coming years.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM SELSEY ELECTORS

There were none.

There being no other business, Cllr M Beal thanked the audience and closed the meeting at 8.54pm.

Chairman