

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 4th APRIL 2018 IN THE TOWN HALL COMPLEX

PRESENT:

A total of 30 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 7.00pm

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Marjorie Graham, STC Cllr Chris Dean and District Cllr John Connor.

TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING HELD ON 12th APRIL 2017

The Chairman explained that the minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 12th April 2017 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 S Newman, that the minutes be confirmed and signed as a true record.

RESOLVED

TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN OF SELSEY TOWN COUNCIL'S REPORT FOR 2017/18

As usual 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. We have said goodbye to two staff this year. Sam Tate has left us to pastures new (at the other side of the world, well East Wittering anyway), to be their Parish Clerk. We wish her well in her new venture and look at this as an opportunity to work even more collaboratively across the peninsula. Roland Smith has decided to take up retirement instead of working for STC. We wish him a long and very happy retirement after all he has done for Selsey over the years. We also welcome two new members of staff. Jennie Ririe has become our latest member of staff and has rapidly become an integral part of the team as Deputy Clerk. I hope she has a long and engaging time with Selsey Town Council. Our latest recruit, Dawn, is new to the front office and is already a vital part of the face to face contact between council and members of the public.

SelseyWorks goes from strength to strength. Sue has made amazing progress in engaging a whole range of people with help with getting back into work, financial assistance and benefit support. She is now responsible for the latest initiative working in collaboration with the Community Energy programme delivering advice and signposting on energy poverty. This works partly through the energy adviser we have engaged to offer energy advice on Thursdays in the Exhibition Hall. If you haven't been to speak to either of them then don't wait. The energy advice is a drop in session where switching and other energy advice is available.

You will all be aware of the work going on with regard to the A27. Your elected members have been spending hours in meetings, seminars and consultation groups on your behalf since the start of the year making sure that the people of Selsey are not disadvantaged by any proposed changes to the A27. You will know that the original proposal from Highways England was rejected as impractical and the decision was taken to forego the Government RIS1 (Road Improvement Strategy) funds for the 1st round of funding and develop a solution that would actually work and apply for funding for RIS2. There is progress and I urge you all to make sure your voice is heard. There will be opportunities to continue to contribute to the debate so please don't leave it to 'them'.

Selsey TC has also been involved in the generation of the STOMP project (Sustainable Tourism on the Manhood Peninsula). This is a genuine opportunity for us to mould our own future and work with the other parishes on the peninsula for the benefit of us all.

Another important part of the STC business plan is to continue to make Selsey a real 'destination'. That means a place where people want to visit and stay, not just visit for part of the day and then go away. To achieve this STC worked in partnership with CDC to test the viability of a small harbour for the local fishing fleet. Joint funding between STC and CDC with a contribution from the local fishermen's association commissioned two reports. The first was to find out if a harbour/haven for the fishing fleet was feasible. The second report was commissioned to check the economics of such a venture as whatever was going to be built had to pay its own way. Although we had plenty of comments on the obvious viability potential nobody

at STC or CDC had the necessary experience or qualifications to produce a report that stood up to both economic and academic scrutiny. The last time a project of this magnitude was undertaken without commissioning proper reports but just on opinion in the area was probably the Arundel/Portsmouth canal. Consequently the decision was made to commission the reports to find out the reality of the proposals. The civil engineering report said that a haven was realistic in the construction without causing major problems with long-shore drift etc. The economic report basically said that the haven would be not economically viable without increasing capacity to encourage pleasure craft to pay mooring fees to generate enough income to deal with future maintenance and possible dredging. The increase in size added to the construction costs and as money is not exactly plentiful at the moment the project has been shelved, not abandoned. The projected construction costs were in the region of £14 – 19M. The economic report has provided impetus for a range of other possibilities to encourage visitor numbers to grow. STC is currently looking at the report and planning on what initiatives we can glean from the report to make economic sense and help improve the lot of Selsey residents by adding to the economic viability of the town as a whole. Consultation on this will be coming soon and again I urge you all to get involved. As I have said on many occasions, being a councillor is very easy if nobody explains to us what they think ought to be happening. Make sure your voice is heard. Please don't confuse this with being ignored if your ideas don't make it into projects. There are some very good ideas out there but not all of them are either financially feasible or practical in the current environment and some may be in the pipeline or already happening in another guise.

Other activities organised by STC for your enjoyment include the monthly film club held on a Thursday in the town hall. If you haven't been along then please give it a go. The films are advertised and it is a friendly and warm atmosphere generated by those who attend regularly. Screen on the green, Selseystock and this year Jigantics has been added to the list. Not to mention the Christmas lights and the switch on night with entertainment and late opening of the shops in the High Street.

As a council all our committee meetings are held in public. Planning, Assets and Amenities are the two standing committees we use to deal with the issues facing Selsey. The Full Council meets quarterly and with your 14 councillors debate and consideration of the multitude of issues we face are openly and freely decided on. There is space in the public gallery for anyone to attend. No membership fee, no appointment necessary and no tickets for sale, so if you meet a tout outside selling tickets at inflated prices politely refuse. Please come along and see how it works. Next year 2019 will be the next elections for membership of the town council. It would be wonderful if we had a full list of candidates to make an election necessary. As Winston Churchill said, the price of democracy is constant vigilance. If we are making the wrong decisions, in your view, then come along and learn how the council works, what the rules are and get involved. Just rocking up at election time and standing as a potential councillor can be very frustrating as there is a lot to learn and it takes time. Being a councillor is not for everyone but if you have had a look then it makes the decision to stand better informed. It costs nothing except your time and determination.

I think we are privileged to live here on the south coast in the wonderful community of Selsey. I know we have our problems but when you see what is happening in many other parts of the country, our ability to work as a community and support each other is worth more than gold.

Cllr Mike Beal
Chairman, Selsey Town Council

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE SELSEY A27 STAKEHOLDER FORUM

The Chairman of the Selsey A27 Stakeholder Forum, Anthony Tuffin, gave a presentation to those present explaining that the Forum had been set up by Selsey Town Council as a platform for the community to feed in its ideas and concerns regarding the A27 around Chichester. Anthony acknowledged that everyone locally knows that something must be done and the Forum wanted to hear those views.

A quick overview was given of the consultation completed by Highways England in 2016, noting that although 5 options were produced by HE 47% of respondents had chosen 'no option'. The Department for Transport had subsequently withdrawn funding and in response the Leader of WSCC, Louise Goldsmith, had spearheaded the establishment of the cross-community Build A Better A27 group. The BABA27 group had agreed ten broad principles and the consultants SYSTRA had been engaged to suggest a variety of solutions that met those principles. The consultants had now produced a 'long list' of nine potential options, five involving the creation of new roads. Anthony confirmed that the community's views would be fed back to WSCC/BABA27 but cautioned that completely new suggestions at this point might not be entirely helpful. The current proposals would then be reviewed against the feedback received before final proposals were

submitted to HE. It was noted that Selsey's priorities had generally been found by the Forum to be: access along and through the A27, air pollution and access to Chichester.

General discussion highlighted the following common concerns:

Fears that an increasing population on the Manhood Peninsula combined with current difficulties accessing Chichester and approximately 70% of all A27 bypassing Chichester would mean that southern solutions would be unsustainable over the long term.

Routes located to the south of the city would mean polluted air would be spread across densely populated areas due to the prevailing winds – with northern routes this pollution would be blown into wooded areas. The impact of construction – data regarding the respective impacts of proposed routes during construction was requested.

Concerns that influential businesses in the northern areas would sway decision making.

Concerns that with none of the HE consultants seemingly living in the area would any of them actually understand what it's like to live here.

Questions were asked regarding the timeframe. It was noted that to meet the RIS2 (Road Investment Strategy) timetable proposals should be in place now, with RIS2 covering the financial years 2020/21 to 2024/25. Once road schemes for RIS2 were agreed there would be a further period before work actually started.

Mrs G Baum asked whether she could make a proposal to support a Northern route. The Clerk to Selsey Town Council advised that this would be against the principals of the Build A Better A27 Group which the Forum had signed up to, noting that the BABA27 group were trying to work towards solutions of greatest benefit to all and it had been agreed that the parishes should try and work together in a neutral way. Mrs C Purnell, speaking in her capacity as the County Cllr for Selsey, stated the BABA27 group had worked to ensure that representatives from all parishes, businesses, residents associations, etc had all be asked to go and get feedback.

Anthony Tuffin concluded by thanking all present for sharing their views and confirming that feedback would be given on behalf of Selsey to the BABA27 group.

TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM STEVE HILL, RURAL TOWNS CO-ORDINATOR AT CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL ON THE NEW VISION – A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT WITH SELSEY TOWN COUNCIL AND BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS FROM ACROSS THE TOWN.

Steve Hills had not been able to attend and so this item was postponed.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM SELSEY ELECTORS

Dr L Bromley, owner of a small holiday let business, asked whether free Wi-Fi was possible in the High Street.

Parking in the High Street was raised as an issue and more signage guiding people to the East Street car park was requested.

The state of local roads was discussed with one resident noting the effectiveness of the Love West Sussex app to report potholing, noting that if the reported pothole meets the required criteria it will be filled in.

The issue of the A27 and the Meeting's potential response to the current longlist of SYSTRA suggestions was debated at length with the attendees in general agreement that all routes, both northern & southern, should remain above the line. Additional priorities agreed by those present included the separation of through and local traffic, air quality and sustainability. Several motions were proposed and withdrawn as the discussion evolved before a vote was taken.

Dr L Bromley proposed, seconded by Mrs C Purnell, that the Selsey Town Meeting support the Build a Better A27 Group to provide any improvement that delivers the separation of through and local traffic, improvement in air quality taking into account the prevailing winds and a sustainable solution to our traffic problems for the future. This was RESOLVED, 29/1 with Mr A Brown wishing his objection to be noted.

Questions were raised regarding the CCTV in the High Street with several residents present noting it had not been working for months. Residents wished to know who monitored the footage, who was responsible for the system and who pays for it. The Clerk confirmed Selsey Town Council made an annual contribution of £7,000 but the system was managed by the District Council. Mr John Elliott, in his capacity as a District Cllr, noted the concerns raised and would be taking them forward.

Dog fouling, particularly on the sea wall, was raised by several residents present noting there was signage and bins in the area. Questions were asked regarding the Council's feelings on the matter particularly regarding enforcement. Mrs Carol Purnell, responding in her capacity as a District Cllr, advised that although Selsey Town Council pay towards dog bins there were only two wardens in the whole District. CDC were running a litter/dog fouling campaign and would have officers on the ground issuing Fixed Penalty Notices, with Mrs Purnell noting that the Cabinet Member responsible was Cllr Roger Barrow whose details and direct email were available on the CDC website. Cllr M Beal also noted that STC have also run campaigns to raise awareness on litter and dog fouling issues, working with the Community Wardens and local schools to educate and inform.

A resident then raised the issue of the Listening Post in East Beach Road, noting that every visitor they had commented on the state of the building and asking what Selsey Town Council's view was on this. Cllr M Beal confirmed that the owner was not in contravention of any planning laws and therefore there were no grounds for enforcement action of any kind to be taken and also advised that the owner was committed to completing the project as soon as his situation allowed.

There being no other business, Cllr M Beal thanked the audience and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Chairman