

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

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| Cllr. D Eastwood (Town Mayor) | Cllr. C. Macve |
| Cllr. M. Dean | Cllr. S. Mayhew |
| Cllr. K. Everett | Cllr. P. Meakin |
| Cllr. H. Firth | Cllr. I. Smith |
| Cllr. D. French | Cllr. P. Sparks |
| Mr O. Coleman (Youth Member) | Cllr. D. Ward |

IN ATTENDANCE:

2 members of the Press
3 members of the Public
1 x County Councillor - Cllr. C. Dowling

Holly Goring – Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Holly Goring

PRESENTATION FROM 'WEALDEN WORKS'

Ms Crozier and Ms Bowdler attended the meeting and provided some background on the 'Wealden Works' initiative. This employability project has been in place since 2011 and worked with young people who were regarded as NEETs (16 - 24 year olds not in employment, education and training). The success they'd seen had been outstanding and the input from local organisations and businesses, immense.

The project had supported 214 young people into employment in the district of Wealden. Four ten-week programmes took place each year, where young people were required to attend five days a week from 9.30am. The project enabled young people to get into a routine and stop them from falling into bad habits. The project supported young people into employment by building a strong CV and helping them follow their interests into training or employment. During their time on the project, they would gain qualifications, experience, attend financial workshops and learn day to day life skills.

Local businesses were invited in to come and talk about their work, what support they needed and what they would be looking for in an employee. Barclays Bank visited and ran interview skill sessions, and they also received support from three psychotherapists who supported the emotional needs and health of the young people.

The project ensured that the first placement that the young person attended, was the right match for both them and the employer. The young people were offered work trials and received a reference from the employer, and enabled them to try different experiences and find out what they could achieve. The project also provided 12 months of aftercare once the young person was in work or education.

Members were advised that Tomorrow's People would be withdrawing funding to all of their rural projects, including the project based at Heathfield Youth Centre. The project had supported a number of Uckfield residents in the last year.

The Mayor wished to say a big thank you to Ms Crozier and Ms. Bowdler for the work that the project achieved.

Members asked a number of questions which clarified that Tomorrow's People had previously funded the majority of the project's revenue. The project would become a charity within the next couple of months and they had managed to reduce the annual budget from £140k to £81k. Three members of staff were based at the centre and funding was being provided by East Sussex County Council, Wealden District Council and Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council. In the longer term, it was hoped that further funding would be sought from Skills UK on a payment by results basis. Funding was sought of up to £10k to continue the project into the next financial year.

1.0 TO CO-OPT A YOUTH MEMBER TO UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

As part of a new initiative with Uckfield Community Technology College, the Town Council has been inviting students with an interest in politics to become involved in local decision-making by engaging with the Town Council.

The Mayor, Councillor Eastwood welcomed Mr Boyce to the Full Council meeting and invited him to introduce himself.

Mr Boyce explained that he was a Year 12 student studying at Uckfield Community Technology College Sixth Form. He was currently studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He was looking forward to the opportunity and learning about political processes.

The Mayor asked for members to take a vote by show of hands on the co-option.

FC.109.04.17

With unanimous support, it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Boyce onto Uckfield Town Council as a Youth Member.

1.1 To receive declaration of Acceptance of Office

Mr Boyce and the Town Clerk signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interest that they may have in relation to items on the agenda.

None were received.

3.0 STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE MAYOR'S DISCRETION

None received.

4.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FC.110.04.17 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr Chris Dowling to speak.

Councillor Dowling referred to the extra £2billion promised by central government to all councils over the next three years towards Adult Social Care. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) were expecting to receive in the region of £21million in that period. This still had to be confirmed and allocated accordingly.

ESCC had entered into an agreement with Costain for road maintenance for the next six to seven years.

Lewes Registration Office would be reopening at the end of the April 2017 after a £1million refurbishment. The office would be available for the registration of births, deaths and weddings.

FC.111.04.17 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

5.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor D. Bennett and Councillors J. Anderson, J. Beckford and J. Love.

Apologies were also received from District Councillors Cllr. Claire Dowling, Cllr. P. Waldock and Cllr. Marlowe.

6.0 MINUTES

6.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 20th February 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor

FC.112.04.17 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting of the 20th February 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

6.2 Action list

Members considered the action list and agreed to remove the following items which had been completed or appeared elsewhere on the agenda:-

FC.58.10.16 - To consider the potential re-use of the High Street Double Height Bricks

FC.62.10.16 – Initial review of CCTV

FC.102.02.17 – To consider the recommendation of the Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel on Town and Parish Councillor Allowances for 2016/17 and 2017/18

FC.104.02.17 – To make a decision on the future of the High Street Double Height Bricks

7.0 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

7.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-

FC.113.04.17 (a) Plans Committees – 27th February and 20th March 2017
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committees of the 27th February and 20th March 2017.

FC.114.04.17 (b) Environment and Leisure Committee – 13th March 2017
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment and Leisure Committee of the 13th March 2017.

FC.115.04.17 (c) General Purposes Committee – 6th March 2017
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the General Purposes Committee of 6th March 2017.

8.0 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

(i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee
Nothing to report at this time.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Members noted the report.

(iii) Gatwick Airport Consultation Group
Nothing to report at this time.

9.0 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

(i) Civic Centre Working Group
The report would be reviewed under confidential business.

(ii) Dementia Friendly Working Group
Members noted the report.

(iii) Uckfield Events Working Group
Members noted the report.

10.0 TO CONSIDER PROVIDING A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO 'WEALDEN WORKS' FOR 2017/18

Members considered the report and the information that had been provided during the presentation at the start of the meeting.

Members noted the fantastic work undertaken by the project and wished to make a contribution to get them through their initial funding difficulty. Members suggested that the 2016/17 year end budget figures be reviewed as a slight underspend had been projected.

FC.116.04.17 With ten votes in favour, out of eleven members present, it was **RESOLVED** to provide a financial contribution of £10,000 towards 'Wealden Works' to support their project.

11.0 TO REVIEW THE LIST OF OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2017-18

Members were asked to review the existing list of outside bodies and inform the Town Clerk as to whether the body was still in existence, whether meetings were taking place and how many representatives should be put forward to represent the Town Council.

FC.117.04.17 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the changes made in preparation for appointments at the Annual Statutory Committee meeting in May 2017.

12.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Members noted the Mayor's engagements.

13.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT

One grave certificate had been received.

FC.118.04.17 It was **RESOLVED** to sign the grave certificate for the following:
S. Richards

14.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

None received.

15.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The precept had been adopted at the meeting of Full Council on 9th January 2017. The Town Clerk advised that it was best practice for local councils to minute the exact figure of the precept for the next financial year, when adopting the precept.

FC.119.04.17 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the figure of £852,878 as the precept for Uckfield Town Council for 2017/18.

16.0 CHAIRMAN'S (TOWN MAYOR'S) ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor wished to give a special mention to a local pupil at Rocks Park Primary School, Jack Carter who had completed a project which provided some excellent ideas for how the Civic Centre could use environmental initiatives to save money.

Members noted the excellent work completed by Master Carter and thanked him for his ideas.

17.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

FC.120.04.17

It was **RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

17.1 Update from Civic Centre Working Group

Members noted the update provided.

17.2 To receive a progress update on the new CCTV system in Uckfield Town Centre

Members noted the update provided.

The meeting finished at 8.34pm.