



2023/24 Annual Report



Prepared by
George Dyson



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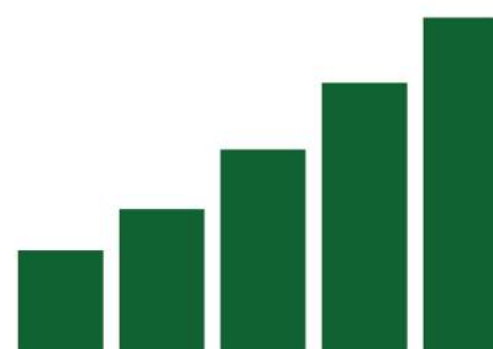
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Town Clerk's Foreword

George Dyson, Town Clerk



The past 12 months has seen significant change at Peacehaven Town Council, with the May 2023 elections resulting in 6 returning and 11 new Town Councillors, and 2 casual vacancies arising since as a result of resignations.

The Officer team has also changed with myself appointed as Town Clerk in October 2023, along with Zoe Malone as Responsible Financial Officer, and later in 2023 Zoe Polydorou being recruited as Meetings & Projects Officer. As I write this, we are now in the process of recruiting for the remaining outstanding vacancies - a Public Relations Officer and a Civic & Events Officer.

I consider it a real privilege as Clerk to be able to work with such a dedicated and experienced team of staff that we have in Peacehaven, who along with your elected Councillors are always on hand to provide help and support to all our residents.

The past year has also seen us adapting to the closure of the Meridian Centre which we are still awaiting further news on the redevelopment of.

The Town Council has continued to maintain and improve some of the amazing greenspaces that Peacehaven is so lucky to have, and we have more exciting amenities projects planned for the upcoming year.

The Annual Town Meeting, being held this year on 23rd April 2024, is an opportunity for residents of Peacehaven to come together, find out from your Town Councillors what has happened over the past year, plans for the coming year, and crucially, being able to ask your questions in an open forum. The meeting is being held from 7pm in Community House, and the full agenda follows on page 4 of this report.

I would like to finish my brief report here by thanking all of those who have contributed to this annual report, as well as all who have been involved in, engaged with, or otherwise supported the Town Council throughout this past year, and will no doubt continue to do so during the coming year - Thank you!



About Peacehaven Town Council

Local government, delivered by councils (local authorities) is responsible for a range of vital services for people and businesses in defined areas.

Among them are well known functions such as social care, schools, housing and planning and waste collection, but also lesser-known ones such as licensing, business support, registrar services and pest control.

Local authorities receive funding from a range of sources, including government grants, council tax and fees and charges. Together, council tax and business rates make up local authorities' largest source of income.

There are three tiers of local government in East Sussex

1. East Sussex County Council
2. District, and borough councils, such as Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council
3. Town and parish councils (e.g. Peacehaven Town Council)

Your local town council is Peacehaven Town Council

Alongside working with local charities, voluntary organisations, schools and the Chamber of Commerce, Peacehaven Town Council also works closely with Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council. However, it can sometimes be rather confusing as to which council is responsible for what, as each has its own area of service delivery and responsibility.

Peacehaven Town Council consists of 17 elected Councillors from four Wards, North, West, East and Central Peacehaven.

Peacehaven Town Council is responsible for:

- Maintenance of allotments, bus shelters, the Peacehaven & Telscombe War Memorial, several local parks, green spaces, sports and recreational facilities
- The provision of grants for local projects and organisations, and halls for social clubs and meetings
- Hosting local events for the benefit of the Community
- Peacehaven's first tier of government is the Peacehaven Town Council who have a statutory right to be consulted on local planning, highways and other amenities.

Meeting Agenda

George Dyson
Town Clerk

(01273) 585493
TownClerk@peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk



Community House,
Meridian Way,
Peacehaven,
East Sussex,
BN10 8BB.

9th April 2024

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday 23rd April 2024
7 p.m.
Main Hall, Community House

The 2024 Peacehaven Town Annual Assembly is being convened by the Town Council.

All residents of Peacehaven are invited to attend.

AGENDA

1. Welcome delivered by Peacehaven Town Mayor, Councillor David Seabrook
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To approve and Sign the Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly, Thursday 26th May 2022
4. Presentations from Peacehaven Town Council Committee Chairs
5. Presentation from South Coast & East Sussex Bird/ Gull Volunteer Network
6. Refreshment Break
7. Public Questions to The Council
8. Meeting Closes

CLlr David Seabrook, Mayor of Peacehaven

A copy of the Annual Town Report is on the Council's web site or available by request.

Minutes of last Annual Town Meeting



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PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE
MERIDIAN CENTRE
MERIDIAN WAY
PEACEHAVEN
EAST SUSSEX
BN10 8BB

Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Assembly held at Community House at 7.00pm on Thursday 26th May 2022

Present: Mayor Cllr L Symonds, Deputy Mayor Cllr D Seabrook, Cllr S Griffiths, Cllr R White, Cllr A Goble, Cllr C Gallagher, Cllr W Veck, Cllr E Simmons, Cllr L Duhigg, Cllr C Collier, Cllr I Sharkey, Cllr C Cheta, Cllr A Milliner, Cllr A Goble, Cllr J Harris, Lloyd Russell – Moyle MP

Officers: Tony Allen (Town Clerk), Victoria Onis (Committees & Assistant Projects Officer), Karen Bray (Information Officer), Kevin Bray (Parks Officer), Zoe Malone (Finance Officer), Leigh o’Loughlin (Communications Officer), Sue Moscatelli (Projects Officer)

Public: 20 members of the public

WELCOME DELIVERED BY PEACEHAVEN TOWN’S MAYOR, COUNCILLOR LUCY-JO SYMONDS

Cllr L Symonds welcomed everyone to the Meeting and addressed the meeting, as follows: -

“Firstly, I’d like to thank Councillor Sharkey and Councillor Hill for their representations as Mayor and Deputy Mayor and for all they have given to the town in their respective positions despite some very difficult challenges that they have been faced with during their term.

Thank you as well to my fellow Councillors who, for the last three years, have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the town and given so much of the personal time working over a wide range of committees to make positive and needed changes for our community – all the while, having to work against the unforeseen unprecedented times due to the COVID pandemic.

And of course, I cannot say a big enough thank you to the Peacehaven Town Council Team, who have not only arranged tonight’s meeting, but for all their hard work over the year. All the Team consistently deliver over and above for the town and its residents – and I know my fellow Councillors will agree, we could not achieve what we do achieve without their support, commitment and dedication.

Tonight, I’d also like to welcome our Keynote Speaker, Lloyd Russell-Moyle, our MP for Brighton, Kemptown and Peacehaven. I know we are all extremely pleased to welcome Lloyd and looking forward to hearing his thoughts and views of our lovely town, the changes he has seen over the last 12 months, the events he has attended and his vision for Peacehaven’s future.



Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Meeting – Thursday 26th May 2022

Peacehaven is a wonderful place to live and, I think after 38 years of being not only a Councillor and resident, I am in a good position to say this - especially as I have lived in the town as a teenager and single mum.

Like you, I have seen many changes over the years, including the development of the town, the growth of our strong community network and the growing links between the Council and its residents.

During my term as Mayor, I would like to focus on reducing isolation for all, increasing participation and inclusion - and creating more opportunities.

Isolation has a significant impact on both our physical and mental wellbeing and therefore by addressing this and creating new ways of engagement and participation for everyone, we can try to minimise the impact that this has on us.

It is going to be a very busy year and I will be taking full advantage of our Deputy Mayor and the expertise of all my Councillor colleagues - as most of them know - I do like to create ideas and make them to happen. So, watch this space.

Finally, as your new Mayor, I would like to say how very privileged I am to serve the town - and you, its residents - and, with my fellow Councillors and the Peacehaven Town Council Team, will work hard to make positive, effective and impactful changes which will help and support everyone in our community."

TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllr K Sanderson – apologies accepted.

Cllr D Paul – apologies accepted.

TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY, TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 2019

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Town assembly's which were held on Zoom, due to Covid Restrictions, dated Tues 19th March 2019 and 12th May 2021, as a true record.

ADDRESS BY LLOYD RUSSELL-MOYLE, MP AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP covered the following matters:-

- A decision has been made that the library will be staying where it is for at least the next 2 years until work begins on the new Morrisons site.
- The need for a library for the Town and we should not give up on pushing for this.
- His want for free bus passes for young people in the area, to give young people a freedom and better access to public transport; will free up parents from driving and being stuck in cars
- The NHS has had a huge pressure put on its services, this is a national problem, not just with covid but with the continual under funding of it; our own Local Doctors surgery has struggled at times; it has received the highest levels of complaints of any surgery in the MP's constituency, but it has started to turn around; a new phone line has been installed and a booking system, but these will need perfecting and time, to manage effectively.

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Meeting – Thursday 26th May 2022

- The needs of Peacehaven’s infrastructure and roads – longer plans that need time to work out, which need to begin now.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- **Lack of policing of the area.** Closure of the Police station. Currently PCSO’s must go to Lewes each day and report in and then get dispatched to different areas, this means a loss of Community Police Officer presence in the Town. This doesn’t work, the Town needs a community police officer, who is available in the Town daily and becomes part of the Community; there is a dedicated Police room in Community House which is never used.
- **Lack of buses and poor bus service** to the back of Peacehaven. Brighton & Hove buses focus on the buses along the coast road, the 12 services and ignore the 14 service. Cllr Gallagher reported that there were positive talks with the Chief of Brighton & Hove buses before Covid, but this has taken a back step and will be taken up again shortly.
- **Need for CCTV on Coast Road,** noted the recently approved upgrade at the big park; Phase 1 is the upgrade of existing equipment in an area which sees most of the anti-social activity. This includes the illegal use of motor bikes, plus other dangers and safety concerns to residents. Waiting for installation date. Second phase to improve skate park, lighting and install additional CCTV. Then CCTV will spread out to the wider town. If we go down to coast road, we then have to start getting ESCC involved which will be more complex, so this will be taken in stages, starting at the big park.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.36



Meet Your Councillors



Cllr David Seabrook
West Ward



Cllr Ian Alexander
North Ward



Cllr Isobel Sharkey
North Ward



Cllr Mary Campbell
Central Ward



Cllr Claude Cheta
East Ward



Cllr Lee Ashby-Parkin
East Ward



Cllr Simon Studd
West Ward



Cllr Sue Griffiths
North Ward



Cllr Cathy Gallagher
East Ward



Cllr Aimee Harman
West Ward



Cllr Kiera Gordon-Garrett
North Ward



Cllr Sherral Wood
East Ward



Cllr Wendy Veck
North Ward



Cllr Nikki Fabry
West Ward



Cllr Paul Davies
East Ward

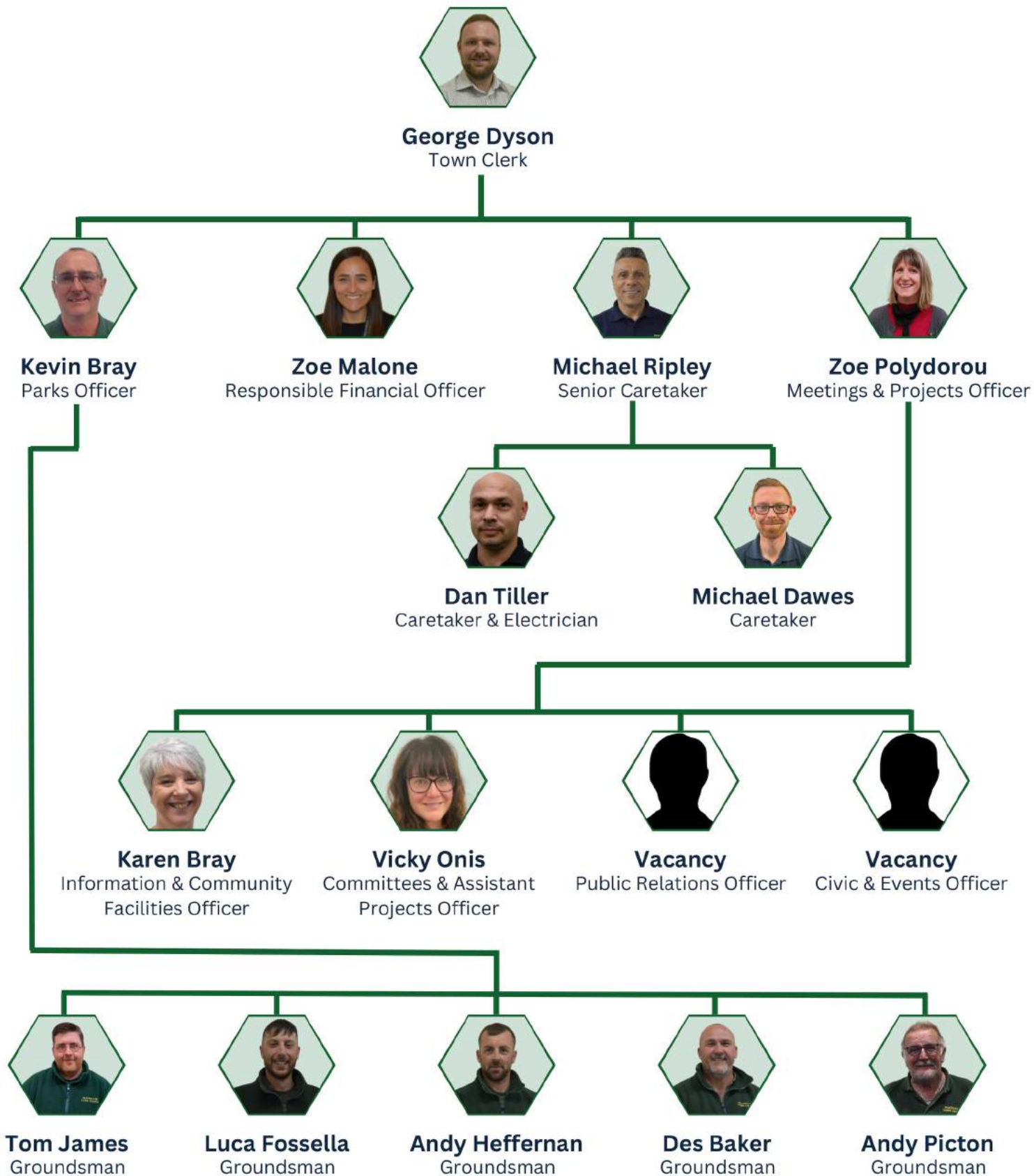


Cllr Nick Evans
West Ward



Cllr Debbie Donovan
West Ward

Staff Structure





Vision And Mission

Vision

Peacehaven aims to be a sustainable environment providing a good quality of life for all residents and visitors.

Mission

To ensure Peacehaven remains a thriving community and a healthy, sustainable, attractive, resilient place to work, live and visit. To encourage vibrant retail outlets and culture offers that blend with our special and distinctive environment. To listen to our community and encourage residents to engage, educate and evaluate us

Committee Chair Reports



Policy & Finance Committee

Chair: Cllr Sue Griffiths

Vice Chair: Cllr Mary Campbell



It has been an honour to chair the Policy and Finance committee for the last year and I have great pleasure in congratulating the Finance Officer, Zoe Malone, in her promotion to Responsible Finance Officer and also for her energy in recouping the £50,000 we were owed for the feed in tariff from the solar panels on the Community House roof which will be used to offset the cost of replacing the Air Handling Units that are past their useful life for heating the hall.

Many residents ask how much of the Community Infrastructure Levy is spent in Peacehaven, but I ask you to remember that a large proportion of the levy goes to East Sussex County Council to be spent on projects such as roads and libraries.

Community Infrastructure Levy spent by Peacehaven Town council during 2023/24

Bridle Way improvement design for Centenary Park	£1,600.00
Parking deterrents at Centenary Park	£660.00
Lights for car park at Centenary Park	£21.40
Parking Bollards at Centenary Park	£111.18
Ballast/Cement to improve access to Howard Park.	£93.27
Centenary Park Bridleway resurfacing	£22,197.80
Hub Condition Survey	£2,470.00
Feasibility study for replacing the Hub roof and heating	£2,500.00

Community Infrastructure Levy from Lewes District Council in Partnership with Peacehaven Town Council.

Centenary Park Bridle Way resurfacing	£32,564.00
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Policy & Finance Committee

Chair: Cllr Sue Griffiths

Vice Chair: Cllr Mary Campbell



We have a bid in to Lewes District Council for £175,000 from their CIL money to match fund £175,000 from the Town Council fund to replace the Hub roof and heating. We are awaiting the result of the bid at the moment of writing.

Setting a budget each year is always a challenge as we need to balance the need for progress and repair against the cost to our residents. We reduced the budget as much as we could, but we had to take into consideration the loss of income from Community House during the rebuilding at the Meridian Centre and the work identified for Community House as being essential.

The 7 budget heading increases are: -

Predicted 30% reduction in income because of demolition of the Meridian Centre	£17,277
Condition report for Community House was received and recommended maintenance and repair noted requiring a contribution to reserves	£30,000
Salary for 2024/25 as per NALC potential agreements and filling of staff vacancies including pension, NI contributions and overtime	£60,652
Professional fees increase	£2,000
Increase in cost of grass cutting	£2,495
Essential tree surveys required	£1,500
Small budget code amendments across several codes	£1,795

Personnel Committee

Chair: Cllr Cathy Gallagher

Vice Chair: Cllr Debbie Donovan



Being Chairman of this Committee has been a huge privilege because the purpose of the Committee is to work with the people who make Peacehaven Town Council function to serve the community.

The staff and the Town Councillors who are volunteers work together as a team to give public service. For the last 12 months there have been unfilled staff posts as the Town Council emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic returning to full service at Community House .

The Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer decided to retire in August 2023 and after an extensive external recruitment campaign the Council were able to fill both posts with internal candidates.

In October 2023 George Dyson was confirmed as Town Clerk and Zoe Malone as Responsible Financial Officer . Both Staff members were qualified for the roles and have brought an energy and fresh approach.

Targeted and timely training has been arranged for all Team members to upscale skills and knowledge. The people who work for Peacehaven Town Council are the Town's greatest asset ,without them the public services could not be delivered.

There are two further posts to be filled in the coming months. The most recent recruit is the Meetings and Projects Officer to support the Town Clerk and to help drive forward the various projects which will improve facilities in a growing and vibrant Town.



Leisure, Amenities, & Environment Committee

Chair: Cllr Isobel Sharkey

Vice Chair: Cllr Lee Ashby-Parkin



The LA&E committee meets every month and has 9 members. We welcome residents to our meetings if they have any questions relevant to our agendas. The committee is responsible for the parks in Peacehaven, (including Centenary Park, The Dell, Howard Park and Epina Park) the sport and leisure facilities, The Hub and our allotments on Cornwall Avenue

In the past year or so we have worked on many projects, such as:

- Extending the path from Chalkers Rise to the park,
-
- Creating a new path from the park to Keymer Avenue
-
- Planning improvements to The Hub
-
- Making improvements to the car park by the football club
-
- Upgrading some of the vehicles and equipment used by our grounds team
-
- Improving the allotments and updating the policy for plot holders

We constantly work at ways to improve our parks and ensure they are clean and accessible to all.

All of our projects aim to make Peacehaven's parks and facilities more environmentally friendly.



Planning & Highways Committee

Chair: Cllr Mary Campbell

Vice Chair: Cllr Kiera Gordon-Garrett



With a new Council elected last May, few Committee members had ever been a councillor before. At our first meeting a year ago, residents crowded the public benches to argue against having 32 homes on the old Motel Site. Our Committee can't take planning decisions – a job for Lewes District Council, not us: but nobody would have guessed that from the lively comments on the public benches. New councillors had to learn fast!

Planning decisions affect everyone so meetings do bring in the public. This year, the issues could hardly have been bigger:

- **Lewes District Local Plan 2040:** This won't decide everything – roads, doctors and schools aren't in its power. But it will decide whether yet more of Peacehaven gets covered in houses: the farmland north of the Big Park? The Valley Road buffer zone between Peacehaven and the National Park? Developers have proposed those and others. So far, Lewes planners have said 'no', and we've strongly supported this decision. Yes, more homes are badly needed. But, alas, often not the sort that developers want: some of their new-builds just stand empty. 'What about infrastructure?' is our eternal cry at this stage. Our drains aren't good enough, our Doctors still have a lot to catch up, our children can't stay on at school here after 16, and the roads inside the town are too full (the Coast Road was too full long ago). The Committee worked hard to put in a long report on all parts of the Lewes Plan. It won't be finally agreed till 2025 and we all need to keep up the pressure.

- **The BSIP,** East Sussex County Council's plan for **better buses:** we pushed for two things: (a) a new pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Sutton Avenue; and (b) speeding up the buses by extending the Brighton-bound bus lane back from Telscombe lights towards the roundabout: maybe to Lincoln Avenue, maybe further. This would help cars too in the morning – there'd be fewer buses to block the main lane. We'll keep pushing ESCC.

- **Road safety:** Councillors have been out measuring car speeds round schools. The bus stop on Pelham Rise already has its shelter and will soon have a yellow box on the road to help visibility on that difficult stretch. And the potholes never stop being reported.

Planning & Highways Committee

Chair: Cllr Mary Campbell

Vice Chair: Cllr Kiera Gordon-Garrett



Continued...

- **Public spaces on roads:** District councillors are working hard to get the Roderick Avenue toilet improved: it doesn't belong to Peacehaven. Another councillor was so shocked by the lack of Christmas cheer on the Coast Road that she started a fashion for brightening up the railings with ribbons. We're now organising adverts on the planters to help pay for better flower displays – and we're planning advertising elsewhere to help keep council tax down. The Meridian Monument on the Promenade is overdue for a clean and we're trying to make it better for wheelchairs by widening the access path. Any other ideas?

- **Trees** are not everybody's cup of tree but much loved by many, good for health and for climate change. We failed to stop the great Macrocarpas on Downs Walk from being cut down despite a huge campaign. But we've got a programme up and running to get more of our landmark trees protected in future.

- And then there's the bread-and-butter work – giving Peacehaven's opinion on **planning applications**. One bungalow into two houses? Top-heavy cubes instead of sloping roofs? Change of use from home to hostel that increases street smoking and parking? And so on. If somebody wants to put a new window into the side of their home, will that invade next door's privacy? And, above all, what is defined as a 'planning issue' that we can ask Lewes to do something about? Or do we have to be honest with the people sitting on the chairs in front of us and say 'we're sorry, but we think you'll just have to live with it'.

The best part of our Committee is listening to all the people who come to our meetings – and trying to do our best. Please keep coming! Soon, it'll be your turn to take the big decision – in the **Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan**. Peacehaven Council has not had a chance to amend drafts of this Plan for years; and it's been changed a lot. Please read it carefully before voting!



Civic & Community Events Committee

Chair: Cllr Wendy Veck

Vice Chair: Cllr Debbie Donovan



The CCE committee aims to serve the whole community by providing activities, events and support to the Mayor/Chairman of the Council.

The Civic role explained:-

<https://www.peacehaventowncouncil.gov.uk/the-roles-of-mayor-deputy-mayor/>

We have an elected Youth Mayor, Amber Cullip-Cross and Deputy Youth Mayor Noah Tilley who have a seat on this committee and regularly play an active part organising and supporting the youth element within the town.

The CCE Committee is responsible for organising Events and Civic duties within the Town. Throughout the year we have raised over £1400 for the current Mayors' Charities. Each year the new Mayor chooses local charities to support which Cllr David Seabrook chose three charities; The Sussex Heart Charity, The ABC fund, and Mencap.

As a committee we have one of the smallest budgets of our Council with all our events profits being divided between the Mayors Charities benefiting the community of Peacehaven.

We are responsible for organising monthly Bingo sessions and a monthly Cinema both held in Community House. The committee are always looking for volunteers to assist in running these type of events, which is a great way to meet like minded people and be part of our community.

The committee is responsible for publishing the councils' monthly newsletter, The eNews, which is currently available to sign up to online. A small number of copies are published and are available from The Information Desk in Community House.

The committee are responsible for all Civic duties such as Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, and any Royal occurrence. During this past year we marked the International Day of Peace with an open-air service held at the War Memorial as part of The Mayor's Civic duties.

PTC welcome filming & photography applications in the town. Details on how to apply can be found via Sussex Film Office - <https://sussexfilmoffice.co.uk/peacehaven-town-council/>

We enjoyed a full programme of events over the past year, which brought Peacehaven together once again. The Summer fair was a great success and will now be held every other year in co-ordination with Telscombe Town Council.

Civic & Community Events Committee

Chair: Cllr Wendy Veck

Vice Chair: Cllr Debbie Donovan



Continued...

In October members of the committee hosted a Children's Halloween party in Community House which completely sold out. Members also joined in and dressed up for the scary event. We hope to organise another spooktacular again this year!

One of the Mayor's major civic events is to hold an annual Carol Concert for the town. We were delighted that our local churches were able to come together to help organise this community event once again, which was truly amazing. We hope that more of our local schools will join in and make this year's performance another to remember.

A few days before our Christmas Break the Mayor hosted an afternoon tea, which was open to all residents. The event was well attended giving everyone an opportunity to catch up before our Winter break. Some of our most wonderful local organisations entertained us during the afternoon.

This year we are organising a Meridian Line Walk which we hope will encourage residents to engage by walking an interactive route around Peacehaven based on our unique position on The Meridian Line.

We are currently working towards holding a D-Day 80 celebration. The event will take place on Thursday 6th June at Centenary Park The celebrations will start at 6.00pm. In preparation to the event we have organised various workshops to make lanterns, so that everyone who wishes to attend and take part in the circle of light can hold their own handmade lantern to commemorate the anniversary.

Please check the PTC Facebook page or website for all forthcoming Mayoral and local events

If you would like to be involved or are just curious about what activities we organise in the town and what we do as a council please come along to our next CCE meeting on 14th May, at 7.30pm in the Anzac Room, you may find it interesting!



Mayor's Report



Mayor: Cllr David Seabrook

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Isobel Sharkey

This year has been quite challenging for the Town Council as a new Council was elected in May 2023 as there were 11 out of a total of 17 Councillors who were completely new to the job – a very steep learning curve which has been addressed through our extensive training programme.

Your Mayor, David Seabrook, has raised money through a series of events, not only for the three chosen charities, ABC Fund, Mencap Lewes District and The Sussex Heart Charity but also for Breast Cancer Now and the SCDA Community Supermarket which operates every Thursday at Community House.

Your Mayor has attended numerous events throughout the year across East Sussex acting as an ambassador for the town promoting its natural beauty and facilities.

June featured a visit to all of the gardens that were open as a part of the Horticultural Societies Open Garden event.

Our Summer Fair in July was a huge success and in future will be held alternating years with Telscombe Town Council.

In August, your Mayor hosted a successful Tea Afternoon in Community House in aid of Breast Cancer Now.

We celebrated The International Day of Peace in September and heard several heart breaking stories from people who have made the very difficult journey from the Sudan to Peacehaven, we also listened to speeches and poems from school children from PCS as well as Councillors and dignitaries attending. This was a very moving event and I am hopeful that it will become a regular feature in future years.

October brought A Childrens Halloween Party that was highly successful. The event was compered by our Town Crier John Borthwick. Your Mayor took part as the “Nightmayor”

In December we held a Childrens Christmas Party, an afternoon tea for residents and a multi faith carol concert. Your Mayor also represented the town at numerous other Christmas related events including the Peacehaven Player’s “Alice in Pantoland”, and the “Ice Queen” production at Peacehaven Community School as well as many carol concerts across East Sussex.

Mayor's Report



Mayor: Cllr David Seabrook

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Isobel Sharkey

Continued...

The Council is working towards its target of being Net Zero Carbon by 2030. Heating systems are being replaced, we have taken delivery of our first Electric Vehicle and have replaced some of our noisy polluting power tools used by the grounds staff with battery powered options and all of our staff have completed Carbon Literacy training. We are planning a Climate Fair in Centenary Park which will take place on 13th July this year.

Looking to the future, we will see the referendum for our Neighbourhood Development Plan which has been many years in the making. There will be discussions around the merging of Peacehaven, Telscombe and East Saltdean Town Councils. Community House will remain open throughout the redevelopment of the Meridian Centre although we face some significant challenges ahead operating next to a building site. Work is anticipated to start in September 2024.

On a personal note, it has been an honour and a privilege to be your Mayor this past year and I thank the many volunteers and staff that have helped with the events that have taken place and in particular I thank the Mayor's Consort, Kathy Harding, Councillor Aimee Harman and Lucy Symonds who have attended events with me. A special thanks goes to Karen Bray who organised the events at Community House.



Neighbourhood Development Plan Update



Cllr Cathy Gallagher, Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

This year 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 benefit of having a plan are in the main that the 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 advantage is that the share of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds which is paid by developers directly to the Town Council will rise from 15% to 25%..

The question “why has it taken so long” is often asked and the answer is that there is a lot of legalisation governing how the plan is produced and the planning policies it contains. The content of the plan and the end designs come from consultation with many stakeholders and most vital are the views of the Residents. Lots of consultation has taken place over several years .

The first “Big Conversation” was in 2018 when the Residents told us that the important considerations for the environment and the land were :

Walking routes, bridleways, parks, green corridors, cycling networks, and the cliff tops.

These priorities have been highlighted in the final plans and the Town Council has been using CIL money to improve and protect these amenities.

The Plan is now in the hands of Lewes District Council for the final lap ,a government examiner is working on the final approval and the Referendum is expected to take place later this summer.

Peacehaven Community Orchard Update

Sue Griffiths, Peacehaven Community Orchard

Peacehaven Community Orchard continues to thrive so below you will find a snapshot of our year since last May. At other times we have volunteer days which are for general maintenance.

May – Blossom Walk



July - we had a stall at the Summer Fair

September - The orchard was nominated for the Kings Award for Volunteering and are one of the 9 nominees from East Sussex.

The winners will be announced in November. Thank you to Jacqui, Mark and Jo.

The orchard is now classed as a Priority Habitat at the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre.

Volunteers raked up the grass to use as mulch after the yearly grass cutting.



December- The Fields in Trust sign was put in place.



January – We planted a donated fig tree.



February – AGM

Peacehaven Community Orchard Update

Sue Griffiths, Peacehaven Community Orchard

February – A Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop was held



March - Awarded £2000 by the House project for creating a Water Harvesting System.

Planted 7 Black Pine Trees that were donated.



Finished Making a new hedge/shelter belt funded by Lewes District Council CIL money.

Peacehaven Horticultural Society Update

Alison Standing, Peacehaven Horticultural Society

The Horticultural Society meet every third Monday of the month in the Anzac Room, Meridian Centre, Peacehaven at 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Membership is £6 a person or £10 a couple. Entrance to the Monday night meeting is £2.50 and includes refreshments. We have a variety of talks during the year including:

- 15th April - Preparing for your show with Barry Newman,
- 20th May - Colour for all seasons with Brian Wickenden,
- 17th June - How to do a flower arrangement for the Show with Duncan Ward & The secret life of the hedgehog with Graham Bowring.

We also have our Trading Hut which is on Peacehaven Allotments, Cornwall Avenue and is open to the public to purchase canes, compost, manure and a variety of garden items.

Our Annual Show will be held on Saturday 10th August at the Meridian Centre at 10.30am - 1.30pm, entrance is £1

For further information on any of the above please contact Alison on 01273 589502



Residents Association Update

Alison Standing, Peacehaven & District Residents Association

After a COVID break the Association are pleased to announce we are back holding regular monthly meetings in Community House, Meridian Centre.

At our Monthly Meetings we talk on a range of topics including the development of the Meridian Centre, The Local Plan and the possible merger of Peacehaven Town Council & Telscombe Town Council.

We welcomed over 50 residents to our AGM and we had a video presentation of Peacehaven by Derek Barton which the members enjoyed and we hope to have a follow up in the near future. In our April meeting we will welcome local MP Lloyd Russell-Moyle to chat about the possible merger of Peacehaven & Telscombe Town Councils.

If you have a query about Peacehaven we can help with, you are most welcome to attend one of our committee meetings, if we can't help we will definately steer you in the right direction. Membership is free!

Our future committee meeting dates are as follows:

- 13th May 5pm
- 24th June 5pm
- 29th July 5pm
- 2nd September 5pm

For further info please contact Alison on 01273 589502 or contact us on our Facebook page Peacehaven & District Residents Association



Peacehaven Community Garden Update

The Peacehaven Community Garden

The Peacehaven Community Garden exists to enable members to grow produce, share ideas and learn a range of garden-related skills and knowledge.

Peacehaven Community Garden is located at the Southern edge of the Oval. You can access it through a small gate on the left at the end of Green Gate. It is managed by a small group of volunteers who meet every Tuesday afternoon 10am to 12noon and the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month 2pm to 4pm, weather permitting. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in. Join the Facebook group for more details.

The members have recently completed building a new notice board, seed library and a share shed for swapping seeds and plants. A new bug hotel has been installed and there are plans for replacing the raised beds, some of which will be accessible, and a new rain water harvesting scheme thanks to support from SCDA and the House Project.

A number of events have been planned over the coming months.:

- Saturday 25th April - Good to Grow 2024: Moth Garden
- Wednesday 29th May - Family bug hunt and seed bomb making
- Sunday 9th June - Family Pond Life Sessions / Mini Pond Making and a Hibernaculum

To book these events please email peacehavencommuniygarden@gmail.com



Meeting Presentations



For the summer season, we have an urgent need for drivers, responders and rescuers in this area.

For this season, finders of birds may have to play a greater part this year by acting as the first responder to secure casualties at home or in a car **BEFORE** contacting a volunteer.



South Coast and East Sussex Bird/Gull Volunteer Network

If you can help us this season,
please get in touch via our facebook page:

South Coast And East Sussex Bird/Gull Volunteer Network

E-mail: jusking1969@gmail.com

Instagram: [@sussex_gull_volunteer_network](https://www.instagram.com/sussex_gull_volunteer_network)

Contact Us



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