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

Draft minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at Community House at 7pm on Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Present:

Councillors: Cllr D Seabrook (Chair of Council), Cllr I Sharkey (Vice-Chair of Council), Cllr M Campbell, Cllr S Studd, Cllr N Evans, Cllr D Donovan, Cllr N Fabry, Cllr A Harman, Cllr S Griffiths, Cllr K Gordon-Garrett, Cllr I Alexander, Cllr W Veck, Cllr C Gallagher, Cllr P Davies, Cllr S Wood.

Officers: George Dyson (Town Clerk), Zoe Malone (Responsible Financial Officer), Zoe Polydorou (Meetings & Projects Officer), Kevin Bray (Parks Officer), Karen Bray (Information & Community Facilities Officer), Michael Ripley (Senior Caretaker).

Public: 21 members of the public in attendance.

1. Welcome delivered by Peacehaven Town Mayor, Councillor David Seabrook

Cllr David Seabrook opened the meeting at 19:03, went through the building fire procedures, asked that phones be put onto silent, and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

The Mayor's chosen charities for the past year (ABC Fund, MENCAP, and Sussex Heart Charity) were each presented with a cheque for £546.63 from the Mayors appeal fund.

Cllr Seabrook then went through the meeting agenda and gave some background information on the purpose and history of the Annual Town/ Parish meeting.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Lee Ashby-Parkin.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the annual town assembly, Thursday 26th May 2022

It was proposed that the minutes from the annual town assembly on Thursday 26th May 2022 be accepted.

Proposed by: Cllr S Griffiths Seconded by: Cllr W Veck

The minutes of the annual town assembly on Thursday 26th May 2022 were accepted as a true record.

4. Presentations from Peacehaven Town Council Committee Chairs

Cllr Griffiths spoke as Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee, highlighting CIL expenditure over the past year, the upcoming redevelopment of the Meridian Centre, the recent condition report of Community House, and the current CIL bid for improvements to the Hub building.

Cllr Sharkey then spoke as Chair of the Leisure, Amenities, and Environment Committee, focusing on the role and remit of the Committee, including the improvements needed to the Hub.

Cllr Campbell spoke as Chair of the Planning & Highways Committee, including an update on the wildflower verges and grass verge cutting, the role of the Committee in responding to Planning Applications with over 100 considered by the Committee in the past year, and finally about the upcoming Lewes District Local Plan and Peacehaven & Telscombe Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr Gallagher spoke as Chair of the Personnel Committee, highlighting the challenges of the Committee in appointing the right staff over the past year, and the successful training plan implemented for staff and Councillors.

Cllr Veck spoke as Chair of the Civic & Community Events Committee, summarised the role of the Committee and gave a brief overview of the main events of the past year as well as some of the upcoming ones, and also reinforced that volunteers are always encouraged to come forward to support these events.

Cllr Gallagher spoke as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, giving an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, some of the challenges in getting this far, and how the public referendum will work.

5. Presentation from South Coast & East Sussex Bird/ Gull Volunteer Network

Justin King from the South Coast & East Sussex Bird/ Gull Volunteer Network gave a talk on the role of the group of volunteers and the challenges that they have been facing due to a number of wildlife centres closing and avian flu outbreaks over the past few years resulting in a decline in wildlife.

Justin gave some examples of recent rescues and some general tips and advice on managing sick or injured birds and animals.

6. Refreshment Break

Refreshments were served in the foyer from 19:51, with the meeting resuming at 20:16.

7. Public questions to the Council

A member of the public asked why the Community House toilets aren't open to the public, as well as the disabled toilet at the Gateway Café often being out of order and unavailable for use.

The member of the public also raised a concern about dog mess in the parks.

Another member of the public asked the Council about what more can be done to deal with the potholes along the A259.

Another member of the public asked about the future of the Meridian Centre redevelopment, and in particular whether any further news had come through about the shuttle bus to the Morrisons store in Seaford.

Another member of the public thanked the Councillors for all they do, and spoke about the House Project having funds available for Community Projects, encouraging people to apply for the grants available.

A member of the public representing the Residents Association gave an update that the group is active and currently discussing the bus service around Peacehaven, as well as the suggested merger of Peacehaven and Telscombe Town Councils.

A member of the public representing the Peacehaven Community Supermarket thanked the staff for their ongoing support and patience with the Community Supermarket.

A member of the public raised concerns about the accessibility of Cornwall Avenue, particularly as a polling station.

8. Meeting closes

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:43.